THE

ÆSCULAPIAN LABYRINTH EXPLORED;

OR,

MEDICAL MYSTERY ILLUSTRATED.

IN A SERIES OF INSTRUCTIONS TO

YOUNG PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, ACCOUCHERS, APOTHECARIES, DRUGGISTS, AND PRACTITIONERS OF EVERY DENOMINATION, IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY OF

RISIBLE ANECDOTES AFFECTING THE FACULTY.

INSCRIBED

TO THE COLLEGE OF WIGS,

BY

GREGORY GLYSTER,

AN OLD PRACTITIONER.

"TWENTY MORE! KILL THEM TOO."——BOBADIL.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

TO THE COLLEGE OF WIGS.

" Moſt potent, grave, and reverend ſigniors,

" My very noble and approved good" Doctors.

THE ſolemnity of your ſomniferous aſpects, no leſs than the profeſsional gravity of your external ornaments, lay claim to a bow of obedient recollection in paſsing through W——k-lane to public inſpection. As one of the moſt *popular* deſcendants from your great progenitor, permit me to acknowledge, I revere the *vaſt extent* of your *medical abilities*; that I feel moſt forcibly the *enormous weight* of your *accumulated learning*, and *tremble* at the very idea of your *experimental abilities*.

Condeſcend, dread Sirs, to ſanction this analization of *Æſculapian impoſition* and *medical myſtery*, with ſuch proof of approbation, as the dignity of a *diploma*, and

the

the muſcular rigidity of *phyſical countenance* will permit you to beſtow; nor let it be the leſs entitled to your favor, that a long liſt of *valetudinarians* (to whom you are daily penſioners) become partakers of the *banquet of mirth*; or the ſmall fry of *pharmacopoliſts*, (your humble dependents) *for once* permitted to take a ſeat at the *ſame table* with yourſelves.

Anxiouſly ſolicitous to obtain belief, that

"I ſhall nothing extenuate,
"Nor ſet down aught in malice,"

you may in juſtice conclude me,

Sage Sirs!

Your very candid,

And obedient repreſentative,

GREGORY GLYSTER.

THE

ÆSCULAPIAN LABYRINTH EXPLORED.

TO THE PHYSICIAN.

HAVING paſſed the tedious years of abſtruſe ſtudy and intenſe application, neceſſary to your initiation in the myſteries of phyſic, and replete with a perfect remembrance of all the requiſites to this *great art*, we ſuppoſe you recently immerged from the obſcurity of *dreary walls* and *dull profeſſors*, a phenomænon of univerſal knowledge and *family* admiration. The various and elaborate examinations you have paſſed, with ſcholaſtic approbation, having relieved you from the conſtantly accumulating load of anxiety, you are at length launched into life under

a new character, and daily pant to diſplay the dignity of your profeſſion, in the happy appendage of *M. D.* to the preſcriptive initials of your name.

You are no longer to be conſidered a ſtudent labouring in the heavy trammels of *unintelligible* lectures upon *philoſophy*, *anatomy*, *botany*, *chemiſtry*, and the *materia medica*, with all their diſtinct and conſequent advantages; or inveſtigating the actual properties of *electrical fire* and MAGNETIC ENTHUSIASM, but ſtamped (by royal authority) with the full force of phyſical agency, and have derived from your *merit* unlimited permiſſion to *cure*, "*kill* or *deſtroy*," to the beſt of your knowledge and abilities, "ſo help you "God." The profeſſional path you now begin to tread, is ſo replete with danger, and the probability of ſucceſs ſo very uncertain, that the fertile world have not omitted to make it proverbial, "A phyſician never begins to get bread, till he has no "teeth to eat it." The truth of this may perhaps have been *lamentingly* acknowledged by ſome of the moſt *learned men* that ever became dependant upon a *capricious* world for *precarious* ſubſiſtence.

This palpable fact may conciſely ſerve to convince you, your embark-

embarkation (with all its alluring proſpects) will not only be encumbered with difficulties, but your ultimate gratification of ſucceſs exceedingly doubtful. Great depth of learning may afford conſolation to the equity of your own feelings (if you fortunately poſſeſs them) but it is by no means neceſſary to the acquiſition of *public opinion*, however it may tend to contribute to the general good.

To avoid entering into a ſentimental diſquiſition upon the *honeſty, integrity*, or *ſtrict propriety* of the maxims I proceed to lay down for your future conduct to obtain profeſſional ſplendour, and *inſure ſucceſs*; I avail myſelf of the privilege I poſſeſs, to wave every conſideration of the *conſcientious kind*, and once more obſerve (without adverting to their conſiſtency) they are adduced only as the unavoidable traits of character, and modes of behaviour, by which alone (in the preſent age) you can poſſibly hope for the leaſt proportional ſhare of practice as a phyſician.

At your firſt public entré, when the college liſt and court calendar have announced your qualifications and advancement to the wondering world (that ſuch liſt ſhould annually increaſe) let your friends and relatives be doubly aſſiduous in propagating reports

(almoſt incredible) of your *great humanity*, *extenſive abilities*, and *unbounded benevolence*.—This will anſwer the intended purpoſe to a certainty; crouds of the afflicted and neceſſitous will ſurround your habitation, and render your place of reſidence conſtantly remarkable to all claſſes, who naturally enquiring the character of the proprietor, will eagerly extol your charity in contributing your "advice to the poor GRATIS."

This method alone will gain you popularity with thoſe that rank in the line of mediocrity; with *their ſuperiors*, ſucceſs muſt be inſured more from the efforts of *intereſt*, than either *perſonal merit*, or *ſound policy*. Your attention to the wants of the poor, muſt ſoon be regulated by the preponderation of more weighty conſiderations; as you *affected* to alleviate their diſtreſſes from the motive of commiſeration, prompting you to promote *their eaſe*, you have an undoubted right to ſhake off ſuch ſuperfluous viſits, to ſecure *your own*. In this deceptive charity, ſome degree of diſcrimination muſt be put in practice, for you will ſometimes perceive one among the train, whoſe apparel or behaviour muſt neceſſarily give you reaſon to ſuſpect he has aſſumed the cloak of neceſſity to ſave *his fee*, and avail himſelf of your profeſſional liberality;

berality; in ſuch caſe, call to your aid a look of true *medical auſterity*, and let him underſtand "advice is ſeldom of any value or "effect unleſs it is paid for;" this will frequently anſwer the purpoſe, and procure what you did not expect.

On the contrary, ſo ſoon as you obſerve your preſcriptions have "*worked wonders*" upon two or three of the moſt *credulous* and *ſuperſtitious*, who are extolling your *great knowledge* and "bleſſing "*your honour*," ſtrengthen the *force* of your judgment by *charitably obtruding* a pecuniary corroboration into the hand of your afflicted patient, as a confirmation of your *unbounded ſkill* in the *(miraculous)* cure of every diſeaſe to which the human frame is incident. By ſuch *political* practice, you inſure the recital of your ſervices with extacy, and your name reverberates from one end of the metropolis to the other.

Your perſon and place of reſidence, being by theſe means univerſally known, and your name become in a proportional degree popular, let your plan and mode of behaviour be inſtantly changed; it will be now neceſſary

"You "aſſume a" hurry "if you have it not."

Take

Take care to be ſo exceedingly engaged with patients of the *firſt claſs and eminence*, that "it is with difficulty you procure time ſufficient for the common purpoſes and gratifications of nature." No paupers *whatever* can be admitted to your preſence without a written recommendation from *nobility*, or characters of the *firſt fortune*; this will inſure you no farther intruſion from a claſs originally introduced for your *particular purpoſe*; that effected, they may now be permitted to fall into the back ground of the picture; from whence they were brought for no other motive than the promotion of your perſonal intereſt and profeſſional emolument.

It becomes your particular care to be always in a *hurry*; let your chariot (if you can fortunately raiſe one) *upon job*, be at the door regularly by nine in the morning; to prove how very much you are attached to the duties of your profeſſion, and how anxiouſly you have the *ſalubrity* of your patients *at heart*.—Omit no one circumſtance that can contribute to a ſhew of being perpetually engaged. Letters written by *yourſelf*, and meſſengers of your *own diſpatching*, cannot be ſeen at your doors too frequently; the chariot ſhould be as repeatedly ordered—remember to leave home

by

by *one way*, and return by *another*, and equally *in haſte*; all theſe ſtratagems are conſidered peculiar privileges of the *College of Wigs*, and are well worthy your attention and conſtant practice. You need hardly be told, the ſuperficial and unthinking part of mankind are ever caught by appearances; what proportion they bear to other diſtinctions, need not in the preſent inſtance be at all aſcertained.

Having laid down rules (that ſhould be rigidly perſevered in) for the regulation of your *public character*, I ſhall now advert to the ſtrict line of conduct it will be proper for you to adopt in your perſonal tranſactions upon all profeſſional emergencies.

When called to a patient upon the recommendation of the family apothecary, you are to conſider him one of your beſt friends, and *pay court to him* accordingly; on the contrary, if you are engaged upon the ſpontaneous opinion of the patient, or his relatives, you have every reaſon to conclude the abilities of the apothecary are held in very ſlender eſtimation, and you may ſafely venture to diſplay as much of your *own conſequence* and ſuperiority, as circumſtances will admit.

After the awkward ceremony of your firſt appearance is over,

and

and matters a little adjuſted, take great care be to upon your guard; indulge in a variety of *ſignificant geſtures*, and *emphatical hems!*—and *habs!* proving you poſſeſſed of *ſingularities*, that may tend to excite ideas in the patient and ſurrounding friends, that *a phyſician* is a ſuperior part of the creation.——Let *every action*, *every word*, *every look*, be ſtrongly marked, denoting doubt and ambiguity; proceed to the neceſſary enquiries of "what has been "done in rule and regimen, previous to your being called in?" hear the recital with patience, and give your *nod of aſſent*, leaſt you make Mr. Emetic, the apothecary, your formidable enemy, who will then *moſt conſcientiouſly* omit to recommend the aſſiſtance of ſuch *extraordinary abilities* on any future occaſion.—Take care to *look wiſdom* in every feature; ſpeak but little, and let it be impoſſible *that little* ſhould be underſtood; let every hint, every *ſhrug* be carefully calculated to give the hearers a wonderful opinion of your learning and experience.—In your *half-heard* and myſterious converſation with your *medical inferior*, do not forget to drop a few obſervations upon—"the animal œconomy"—"circulation of the "blood"—"acrimony"—"the non naturals"—"ſtricture upon "the parts"—"acute pain"—"inflammatory heat"—"nervous

"irritability,"

" irritability," and all thoſe *technical traps* that faſcinate the hearers, and render the patient yours ad libitum.

To the friends or relatives of the diſeaſed, (as the caſe may be) you ſeriouſly apprehend *great danger*; but ſuch apprehenſion is not without its portion of *hope*; and you doubt not, but a rigid perſeverance in the plan you ſhall preſcribe, will reconcile all difficulties in a few days, and reſtore the patient (whoſe recovery you have exceedingly at heart) to his health and friends; that you will embrace the earlieſt opportunity to ſee him again, moſt probably at ſuch an hour, (naming it) in the mean time you are in a great degree happy to leave him in ſuch good hands as *Mr. Emetic*, to whom you ſhall give every neceſſary direction, and upon whoſe *integrity* and *punctuality* you can implicitly rely.

You then require a private apartment for your neceſſary conſultation and plan of *joint depredation* upon the pecuniary property of your unfortunate invalid, which you are now going *ſeriouſly* to attack with the full force of *phyſic* and *fineſſe*. You firſt learn from your informant what has been hitherto done without effect, and determine accordingly how to proceed; but in this, great reſpect muſt be paid to the temper, as well as the conſtitution and cir-

cumſtances, of your intended *prey*; if he be of a petulant and refractory diſpoſition, ſubmitting to medical dictation upon abſolute compulſion, as a profeſſed enemy to phyſic and the faculty, let your harveſt be *ſhort*, and complete as poſſible. On the contrary, ſhould a *hypochondriac* be your ſubject, with the long train of melancholic doubts, fears, hopes, and deſpondencies, avail yourſelf of the faith implicitly placed in you, and regulate your proceedings by the force of *his imagination*; let your preſcription (by its length and variety) reward your *jackall* for his preſent attention and future ſervices.—Take care to furniſh the frame ſo amply with *phyſic*, that *food* may be unneceſſary; let every hour (or two) have its deſtined appropriation—render all poſſible forms of the *materia medica* ſubſervient to the general good—*draughts*—*powders*—*drops*, and *pills*, may be given (at leaſt) every two hours; intervening *apozems*, or *decoctions*, may have their utility; if no other advantage is to be expected, one good will be clearly aſcertained, the convenience of having the *nurſe* kept conſtantly awake, and if *one medicine* is not productive of ſucceſs, *another may*. Theſe are ſurely alternatives well worthy your attention, being admirably calculated

calculated for the promotion of your *patient's cure* and your *own reputation.*

Having written your long preſcription, and learnt from Mr. Emetic every neceſſary information, you return to the room of your patient, to prove your attention, and renew your admonitions of punctuality and ſubmiſſion;—then receiving your *fee* with a conſequential *air of indifference*, you take your leave; not omitting to drop an additional aſſurance, that "you ſhall not be "*remiſs* in your attendance." Theſe, Sir, are the inſtructions you muſt ſteadily purſue, if you poſſeſs an ardent deſire to become *eminent* in your *profeſſion*—*opulent* in your *circumſtances*—*formidable* to your *competitors*, or a *valuable practitioner* to the *Company* of *Apothecaries*, from whom you are to expect the foundation of ſupport. A multiplicity of additional hints might be added for your minute obſervance; but ſuch a variety will preſent themſelves in the courſe of practice, that a retroſpective view of diurnal occurrences will ſufficiently furniſh you with every poſſible information for your future progreſs; regulating your behaviour, by the rank of your patients, from the *moſt* pompous *perſonal oſtenſtation*, to the meaneſt and *moſt contemptible ſervility*.

TO THE SURGEON.

I CONGRATULATE you upon your recent emancipation from inceſſant ſtudy, intenſe application, and ſtrict *boſpital* attendance, where I ſhall willingly ſuppoſe, you was a *dreſſer* of the moſt promiſing abilities; that you excelled your cotemporaries in every *chirurgical* opinion, became an expert *diſſecting* pupil to one of the *court of examiners*, and are now burſt through the cloud of your original obſcurity, a perfect prodigy of *anatomical* diſquiſition.

I naturally conclude you capable of animadverting upon all the diſtinct branches of your art to admiration, that you are critically excellent in the uſe of an *inſtrument* from the humble act of ſimple *phlebotomy*, to the more important operation for a *fiſtula in ano*. —You have, beyond every ſhadow of doubt, paid proper attention to the faſhionable precepts of the late Lord Cheſterfield, and rendered yourſelf (with aſſiſtance from the graces) a perfect adept in polite addreſs, diſplaying a variety of the moſt engaging attitudes, even in the adjuſtment of a *ten tailed bandage*. The pro-

ſeſſional information you have induſtriouſly collected, is ſuch as will certainly afford you the moſt equitable claims upon *public opinion*, being in poſſeſſion of every neceſſary acquiſition from a *ſimple gonorrhœa* to a *confirmed lues*.

Previous to your ſolicitation of favour from your friends, you have neceſſarily paſſed the awful ceremony of examination at the *Old Bailey*, under your former tutor (and his brethren of the court) who would not pay his *own abilities* ſo improper a compliment as to aſk you queſtions in *anatomy* or *oſteology*, that he knew your qualifications inadequate to the taſk of technically explaining. After paſſing this *fiery ordeal*, you depoſit the uſual *pecuniary gratuity*, and receiving the *badge* of your newly acquired *honor*, we now hail you "*a Member of the Corporation of Surgeons*," and conclude an ornamental plate upon the door of your habitation denotes you ſo accordingly.

We ſuppoſe you embarking in a ſea of ſpirited oppoſition, with your competitors, for profeſſional celebrity, and decorating your place of reſidence in the moſt applicable ſtile to attract attention. To effect this, let your exterior apartments be ornamented with the *buſts* of *ancients* you *never read*, and *portraits* of *moderns* that

you

you *never knew*. Theſe form an excellent combination to excite the admiration and report of thoſe who have occaſion to court the aſſiſtance of your extenſive abilities.—To gradually heighten which ſurprize, your interior (or *audit room)* muſt be a perfect *Golgotha*.—A proficiency in the ſcience of *oſteology*, muſt be powerfully impreſſed upon the ſenſes of the trembling viſitors, by a *profuſion* of *ſkeletons* in different ſtates; let the awfulneſs of the ſcene be rendered ſtill more ſtriking, by a variety of ſubjects ſuſpended in ſpirits, interſperſed with ſingular *anatomical and injected preparations*, both wet and dry; giving to the whole additional force by the introduction of a "*few ill ſhaped fiſhes*," as the finiſhing ſtroke to a well formed plan of *chirurgical oſtentation*. Remember to let the *certificates* of your profeſſional qualifications, from your different *lecturing tutors*, be ſo placed (in elegant frames) as to meet the eye in a conſpicuous direction; leaſt that part of your patients, who condeſcend to viſit you in this gloomy receſs, ſhould have reaſon to conclude you a *conſummate dunce* and moſt *illiterate booby*, if theſe learned profeſſors had not done your friends the favour to "*certify*" to the contrary: and this they always

chearfully

chearfully do, rather than have it imagined they have eaſed you of a part of your property, without doing you any *real ſervice*.

The domeſtic arrangement being thus formed, the reflections to which you muſt now turn your mind, are the neceſſary modes of practice and behaviour, that may render you not only eminent in your profeſſion, but reſpectable in your property; as great events, that contribute largely to the gratification of ſuch wiſh, do not frequently occur, inferior caſes of every kind muſt be rendered ſubſervient to the purpoſe. In this liſt, *venereals* are entitled to pre-eminence, as the moſt lucrative; the patient never heſitating to pay full as liberally for the preſervation of the *ſecret* as the cure of *diſeaſe*.—But you may be perfectly aſſured, this ſecret never rewards ſo well, as when *fate* or *fortune* aſſiſts its introduction to *married families*; a moſt ſtriking corroboration of this fact, occurred not long ſince in the neighbourhood of a *royal reſidence*, and afforded matter of mirth to the firſt circles in its environs.—This conſtant friend to the faculty was communicated to a married lady, by a *young* and celebrated perſonage of ſome national eminence, and immediately conveyed from her to her *enamoured cornuto* in the moments of true *connubial felicity*; he, in the love of

variety,

variety, unluckily conferred the favour upon the *houſe maid*; and ſhe, in the extenſive liberality of her diſpoſition, kindly beſtowed a portion upon the *footman*. The *electrical ſhock* of this *French fire* was ſo rapidly communicated, that the four ſufferers, within the ſpace of ten days, made their ſeparate *private* confeſſions to the medical ſuperintendant of the family, each aſſigning a different cauſe for its introduction, and equally ſtrangers to the *mode* of its being brought into ſo *ſober a family*. Although this is a well authenticated *fact*, it is a harveſt that can be very ſeldom expected to happen in ſo great a degree; yet you will find it a matter often *intruding* between huſband and wife, and conſidered no indelible proof of *modern inconſtancy*.—To this ſecret, you will be frequently admitted by one party—the other, or both; and have an undoubted privilege to accumulate all poſſible pecuniary advantage from the confidence ſo implicitly placed in you.

Whatever caſes are ſubmitted to your opinion, be always prepared to repreſent them *worſe* than they really *are*; making by your technical terms, and political doubts, *bad worſe* upon every poſſible occaſion. Let all your proceedings have a peculiar and commanding dignity annexed to the execution; by aſſuming a

want

want of feeling, even to *ferocity*, you will be termed a practitioner of *ſpirit*, and become properly diſtinguiſhed for your profeſſional *fortitude*. No tender ſenſations muſt be permitted to influence your feelings during any operation, however tedious, or painful to the patient; they are an ornament to human nature, and beneath your conſideration *as one of the faculty*.—Cuſtom has rendered you ineligible to a place in the *jury box*, as an evident proof of your profeſſional *brutality*; by therefore turning "their "pains to laughter and contempt," you only juſtify the character you are already in poſſeſſion of.

In the moſt trifling operations (even phlebotomy) deſcend to the very minutiæ of medical conſequence, not only making the ceremony *long*, but *ſerious*, that you may be the better entitled to perſonal reſpect and pecuniary compenſation. In all thoſe dreadful accidents that alarm friends and diſtreſs families, take care to throw out (during your apparent care and attention) a variety of obſervations that convey *large ſounds* with *little meaning*; by ſuch ambiguous expreſſions you render the cure more extraordinary, whenever it happens, and is no bad preparative for the procraſtination of it to your own emolument. In all caſes requiring the

interpoſition of inſtruments, take great care that you produce them with myſterious ſolemnity, impreſſing the ſpectators and aſſiſtants, with equal *awe* and *fear* of your abilities; if *inciſions*, or *ſeparation* of the *ſoft parts*, become neceſſary, be ſure, like "old "Renault," to "ſhed blood enough;" it will be attended with a double advantage; firſt in the appearance of buſineſs, and the more *pleaſing conſideration*, that the *larger* and *deeper* the wound, the longer time will be neceſſary for *incarnation*; during the courſe of which, your perſonal attendance and daily *epithemas* cannot be diſpenſed with.

The *greater operations* do not occur every day, therefore tedious *cicatrizations*, in addition to *ſimple* and *compound fractures*, are comfortable aids to fill up the ſpaces of intervention. Fractures of the *lower extremities* are exceedingly favourable, for you may then exert proper authority; it becomes your duty to keep *them down* when they *are ſo*, for ſurely you may take upon you to know (with propriety and profeſſional privilege) when they are capable of *ſtanding* and *walking*, better than they can *themſelves*.—Tho' one exception to this rule has fallen within my knowledge,

and

and nearly ſet aſide the privilege of the practice in the neighbourhood where it happened.

An honeſt hearty *miller*, in a ſmall pariſh in the county of H———, having, on the market day, made ſome lucky purchaſes, and congratulating himſelf upon his good fortune with a few friends over the bottle, got himſelf inſenſibly intoxicated; but obſtinately perſiſting in his determination (and ability) to ride home, he was ſuffered to depart, and was found afterwards upon the road by one of his own ſervants almoſt lifeleſs; he was conveyed to his habitation, and one of the moſt *eminent ſurgeons* from a certain large and populous town was called in, who finding the trunk nearly inanimate, proceeded to *veneſection*, then to an accurate examination of the body, in which he preſently diſcovered " a *fracture of the tibia*, and two of the ribs; he had every " reaſon to apprehend (from preſent ſymptoms) a *concuſſion of the* " *brain*; but ſituated as things were, he ſhould now adminiſter " proper *palliatives*, and purſue the neceſſary ſteps upon his ar- " rival in the morning."---He then left the patient, after ſtrict injunctions " that he ſhould not be ſuffered to move from the " poſition he had placed him in, till his return."---At the hour

before appointed, the *Doctor* returned, and not finding the wife below ſtairs, explored the region he had left his patient in the night before, ſurrounded by his ſorrowful friends; when, ſtrange to relate! *(ſtranger to believe!)* the bird was flown, the bed made, and the very room exhibited a ſtriking proof of ruſtic neatneſs. Recovering in ſome degree from his ſurpriſe, and feeling *very forcibly* the aukwardneſs of his ſituation, he deſcended to the kitchen, and there finding the wife (who had juſt returned from ſome buneſs in a back yard) he eagerly enquired "How, or which way, "his patient had been conveyed, and where to?"---When the poor woman very ſimply and civilly replied, that "her huſband "was gone into the fields among his folks; that ſhe had repeat-"edly urged the doctor's orders of his *not getting out of bed*; but "he was a very obſtinate man, and ſaid he'd be d---'d if he'd "ever lay in bed with a *broken leg* for any doctor in England, ſo "long as he could walk upon it."---It may be better conceived than deſcribed how ſevere a ſtroke this proved upon the reputation of the ſurgeon; certain it is, his practice continued in a declining ſtate for ſome years, and it was not till the circumſtance was nearly buried in oblivion (with the body of the miller) that

he

he recovered his former celebrity, being at this moment one of the oldeſt and moſt eminent practitioners in the neighbourhood where he reſides.

This inſtance ſufficiently demonſtrates the impropriety of overſtraining the profeſſional prerogative, eſpecially with thoſe obſtinate uncivilized beings, who have ſo little pliability of diſpoſition, as not to lay in bed when required; particularly in caſes of emergency, where it is ſo evidently for the promotion of their own health and ſafety.

Remember in all caſes of difficulty and danger to be mindful of the *emplaſtrum adhæſivum* of connection, by which every branch of the faculty ſhould be united for the preſervation of the whole; adviſe (without the leaſt reference to the enormity of expence) a conſultation of the moſt eminent; this renders the caſe of your patient more ſerious and alarming, and you oblige your brethren by the recommendation; firſt of a phyſician, whoſe *preſcription* introduces the *apothecary*; and you then proceed *phyſically* and *ſyſtematically* in the joint depredation and cure; your two friends, by the law of retribution, gratefully recommending your inſpection of every ſimple *laceration* upon all ſimilar occaſions.

Theſe

Theſe are maxims that may at firſt ſight ſeem beneath the attention of a young and *brilliant* practitioner, who erroneouſly conceiving *merit* a ſufficient recommendation, requires no other conductor; but they are ſo evidently an abſolute part of his neceſſary ſtudy, that unleſs ſuch *mutual arts* are occaſionally put in practice, he can never (in the preſent multiplied ſtate of practitioners) expect to derive the common neceſſaries of life from a fair and generous practice of his profeſſion.

Men of underſtanding, experience, and obſervation, know, that the benignant hand of providence continues to anticipate in a variety of inſtances the interpoſitions of *art*; and *nature* would, upon many occaſions, entirely effect her own work, if not ſo frequently interrupted and retarded by the officious hands and intereſted experiments of profeſſional jugglers.

TO THE ACCOUCHER,

OR,

MAN-MIDWIFE.

YOU fortunately make your appearance upon the boards of public patronage, under the moſt ſtriking advantages; the prevalence of *faſhion* has exceeded every conſideration of *decency* and *diſcretion*, and you are become (by the influence of pride and imitation) as neceſſary to the comfort of a cottage, as the happineſs of a court. From the nature of your profeſſional deſtination, a pleaſing exterior, and an accompliſhed perſon, are invariably expected; neceſſarily blending (from your intended intercourſe with the *purer* part of the creation) the preciſion of taſte, with the perfection of the ſcholar.

The certificate granted you by that elaborate lecturer, the *obſtetric profeſſor*, proclaims you qualified in the very minutiæ of this myſterious art. The parts, externally and internally, neceſſary to generation, are ſo perfectly familiar to your "mind's eye," that

you

you can extemporaneouſly delineate the *ovariæ*, the "*fallopian* "tubes," the *fimbriæ*, and the very act of *conception*, from the "*animalculæ*" in "*ſemen maſculino*," to the laſt ſtage of *geſtation*; the gradual expanſion of the *uterus*, the dilatation of the *os uteri*, the progreſs of *labour*, and all the methods of extraction.

You can clearly define the claſſes as *natural*, *laborious*, and *preternatural*; the uſe of the *forceps*, *ſciſſars*, *crotchet*, and *blunt hook*; the introduction of the *catheter*, the extraction of the *placenta*, and the ſeparation of the *funis*; in fact, all the *et ceteras* are ſo perfectly clear to you in *theory*, that it is almoſt treaſon to ſuppoſe you can *err* in the practice.

But, Sir, ripe as you are in theſe advantages, the harveſt of univerſal applauſe, and the ſweets of emolument, are ſcarcely to be acquired even by time, labour, and the moſt indefatigable induſtry. You have in the practice of *midwifery*, all the ills of *Pandora's box* to encounter, and after twenty years practice may be left to exclaim moſt emphatically,

"Vain his attempt who ſtrives to pleaſe you all."

The only conſolation you have, is, that you are deſtined to co-

operate

operate with ſubjects, whoſe ſmiles render ſome degree of compenſation for the inceſſant fatigue dependant upon the practice. Under theſe conſiderations, in the full career of your expectations, it can never prove inapplicable to prepare your mind for ſome of the rebuffs and diſappointments that inevitably enſue. I conclude you are poſſeſſed of youth, health, diligence, and conſtitutional *ſtamina*; but there are other requiſites, equally neceſſary for the performance of profeſſional duties, to which by election you dedicate the ſtore of knowledge you have ſo induſtriouſly acquired. The indiſpenſible qualifications, for the ſucceſsful execution of the arduous talk you are undertaking, may be compriſed in very few words, and thoſe few exceedingly expreſſive and readily underſtood; without *ſobriety*, *fortitude*, *judgment*, and *patience*, you never can expect to attain the ſummit of excellence, or obtain admiſſion to thoſe families whoſe patronage will contribute moſt to both credit and emolument. But admitting you poſſeſſed of all the requiſites for mere manual operation, the proceſs of delivery, and conſiſtency of conduct, yet there are a multiplicity of embelliſhments, that nothing but previous inform-

ation, private inſtruction, or experimental practice, can ſufficiently recommend to your attention.

In the awful minute of your introduction to a ſcene of excruciating agony and eager expectation, where the hope of a mother, and the anxiety of friends, all center in you, as the meſſenger of peace, throw off the oſtentatious air of ſelf-importance, exerted over thoſe *patient paupers* upon whom you practiſed in the days of your initiation, and recollecting yourſelf the humble ſolicitant of public opinion and private favour, diſplay your tenderneſs and civility, as no bad harbinger of your better qualifications. Strengthen ſuch favourable impreſſion by every degree of delicacy and attention to the ſuffering expectant, who imploring aſſiſtance from the interpoſition of your art, hails you as "the god of her idolatry," by whom ſhe is to receive an early acquittal from all her ſufferings.

As this is not often to be inſtantly expected, and many tedious hours frequently intervene between the *hope* and *execution*, it will be neceſſary (excluſive of your periodical conſolations to the patient's inſpiring reſignation) you addreſs yourſelf to the paſſions

and

and foibles of the goſſips, with whom you will in general be too numerouſly attended, and whoſe clamours upon many occaſions are not eaſily to be ſubdued.—Notwithſtanding this, the good opinions and recommendations of theſe motley viſitors (of all ages and conſtitutions) are the very materials to form the foundation of *report*, upon which the ſuperſtructure of your reputation and future practice is to be raiſed.—Although *gravity*, even to a certain degree of *ſolemnity*, is a characteriſtic of your profeſſional practice, yet there are times when you muſt unavoidably come forward to enliven the *good ladies* with a ſpecimen of your volubility, and variegate the natural extremities of pain with the applicable inſinuations of mirth. Jocular inuendoes and double entendres are not only expected, but courted in the intervals of eaſe, or, as the good women generally term it, "when the buſineſs ſtands ſtill."

The introduction of the tea-table and the joke are always conſidered equally promoters of mirth and the delivery; the practitioner is expected to be well ſtocked with the moſt faſhionable recitals of *ſeduction*, *rapes*, *fornication*, and *adultery*, which, if well told, and applicably introduced, inſures him to a certainty the future intereſts of his company. It will be abſolutely neceſſary for

you to fall into all the opinions of the table, except the glaſs of brandy repeatedly preſſed upon you by the *nurſe* (as a ſpecific, or grand arcana, for every ill) with the very expreſſive plea of its not doing you *any harm*; and "beſides, Sir, what's good for the "gooſe is good for the gander."

After ſuch caſual reſpites (which frequently happen) when the progreſs of labour calls you again to your *chair of office*, reſume the language of commiſeration, giving your patient every alleviation of hope for a ſpeedy deliverance, at the very time you are impreſſing (by ſignificant looks and emphatic geſtures) the attendants and friends with an idea of great difficulty and impending danger. In the alternate moments of reſpiration, evade every retroſpective alluſion to the length of the labour, by frequent inſinuations that it advances rapidly, that you have great reaſon to hope every obſtacle will be ſoon ſurmounted; but you are afraid the conſolation you adminiſter, and the pain ſhe ſuffers, will take but little hold of the memory, if you may be permitted to judge from the declaration of a very pretty woman you delivered during your attendance at the Lying-in Hoſpital, who, in reply to your tender admonitions of fortitude and patience, ſaid, "She was very much

"obliged

" obliged to you for your kindneſs, but ſhe was very certain it would " be juſt the ſame again by *that time twelvemonth.*"—This will make way for any thing applicable of your own collection, but they muſt be all bordering upon the original cauſe of the ſcene before you; for although the patient is in extreme pain, it is not ſo with the attendants; they conſider it a *matter of courſe*, and feel no diſguſt but from fatigue, which they very juſtly conceive they have a right to alleviate with occaſional mirth—tea, and a *little good brandy.*

To the *nurſe*, great part of your attention muſt be directed; for ſhe, like a bellows blower to the organiſt at a cathedral, will expect to be included and conſtitute *WE* in all the merit of your execution.—The rapidity, or gradual progreſs of labour, at length cloſes your complicated ſcene of mirth and anxiety; you deliver your patient, and proceed to the ſubſequencies *(ſecundem artem)* all which having concluded to general admiration, and received ten thouſand thanks and bleſſings from your ſubject, you convey a pecuniary *hope* for future ſervices into the hand of the *nurſe*, take a tender leave of your patient, with a promiſe of ſeeing her again in proper time, drop an attracting *nod* of obedience to the ſur-

rounding

rounding females, and meeting the huſband at the bottom of the ſtairs, congratulate him upon his ſon or his daughter; ſlightly hint the difficulty of the caſe, the danger you apprehended, the fatigue you had undergone, all which is not worthy a thought, *perfectly happy* in an event that contributes ſo largely to the happineſs of him and his family.

That part of the work being completed, that moſt depended upon the efforts of *Nature*, it becomes your duty to promote your own intereſt by every exertion of *art*. Should, after your departure, any *hemorrage* enſue, inevitable danger will be apprehended, the patient will be reduced, the friends alarmed, and you, in the moments of dreadful anxiety, be immediately ſent for; this *lucky circumſtance* will operate to your earneſt wiſh; it will afford ample ſcope for your moſt fertile invention, and happily introduce a long liſt of *ſtyptics*, *anodynes*, and all thoſe neceſſary concomitants that give a profitable complexion to the buſineſs, by enlarging your hopes, protracting the caſe, and encreaſing the danger.

However, ſhould this favourable circumſtance not occur, your privilege is by no means curtailed; you immediately commence your previous intentional operation of diſpatching a *ſufficiency* of

balſamic

balſamic anodyne draughts, " to promote and mitigate the ſeverity " of *after pains*, that very much diſtreſs the patient." Theſe draughts ſhould be continued every *four hours at leaſt*, and as a ſufficient quantity of that excellent (and cheap) medicine, *ſpermaceti*, cannot be well diſſolved in each draught, without rendering it too viſcid in conſiſtence, it will be peculiarly advantageous to you (as well as the patient) to let them be accompanied with *boluſes* to be taken at the *ſame time*, compoſed of *pulv. ſperma— confect. alkermes*, &c.—Let the adminiſtration of theſe medicines be entirely regulated by the temper, docility, and recovery of your ſubject; having it ever in mind, that it is neither your duty or intereſt to make the leaſt obſervation upon their being no longer neceſſary, till their frequent uſe is complained of by the patient ſufferer; and even then you are favoured by fortune in a plea, that you " are now under the abſolute neceſſity of making un- " avoidable alterations for the prevention of the *milk, or puerperal* " fever, which you very much apprehend may enſue." That it is an invariable rule with you, never to recommend the uſe of medicines, but where they are highly neceſſary; in the preſent inſtance, it is your duty, from the motive of *gratitude*, to be

equally

equally circumſpect, for the promotion of *her health* and your *own reputation*.

To effect every deſirable purpoſe, a gentle *diaphoreſis* muſt be ſupported, to prevent obſtructions and promote the neceſſary excretions; to procure which, you muſt entreat moſt earneſtly an implicit obedience to your directions, which from a variety of *unpleaſant ſymptoms* becomes indiſpenſible. To carry which point in a ſtill greater degree, renew, at every viſit, your attentions to the *nurſe* (who in your abſence is a vortex of knowledge, in your preſence all obedience) her approbation of your conduct, and good opinion of your practice muſt be obtained *at any price*; it becomes with you a conſideration of greater magnitude than your patient's recovery; for ſhould *death* no longer permit *her* preſence in the ſcene of ſublunary events, you loſe *one patient only*; but with the good opinion and recommendation of the *nurſe*, vaniſhes hundreds of patients *in embryo*, to be brought forth by the influence of her exaggerated reports of your incredible abilities.

The nurſe once ſecured and attached to your intereſt, becomes an admirable inſtrument for the promotion of all your deſigns, ſhe embraces every opportunity to ſtrengthen your directions, and

urges

urges (as you have done) the continuation of medicine, "till, "with the bleſſing of God, her miſtreſs is quite ſet up and "upon her legs again." A proper reflection upon theſe ſubjects will convince you (even in the infancy of your embarkation) that a *midwifery caſe* in a *good* family is no *bad* thing, and made the moſt of, with the occaſional aid of perpetual *cardiacs*, —*balſamics*,—*carminatives*, and *anodynes*, to eaſe and "quiet the "the child," every time it *coughs*, *or belches*, conſtitutes a harveſt of induſtry and political neceſſity, that the world in general is very little acquainted with.

Previous to the cloſing of the curtain, you have ſtill an additional chance for more depredations upon the unfortunate huſband; ſhould *ſtagnant* milk occaſion a *coagulum* in the *lacteals*, conſtituting a *turgency* of the breaſts, threatening a formation of matter, *ſuppuration* becomes almoſt unavoidable, and you promote it accordingly; this leads to *certain operation*, daily dreſſings, &c. all tend to encreaſe your intereſt, and give you the enjoyment of a temporary monopoly in the joint practice of *midwifery*, *ſurgery*, and *phyſic*.

TO THE APOTHECARY.

THE varieties of your paſt, as well as the perſonal requiſites for your future deſtination, are of ſuch a pantomimic and party-coloured complexion, that I cannot proceed to a recital ſo truly riſible, without firſt offering you, in the lines of Woty, a predominant trait in my *own character*,

" I love to laugh, though Care ſtand frowning bye,
" And pale Misfortune rolls her meagre eye."

Thus happily diſpoſed to thoſe brilliant ſallies of mirth, that almoſt renovate life, and ſet melancholy at defiance, you will be the leſs liable to ſurpriſe, that I ſhall deſcend to the very minutiæ of your neceſſary qualifications, for the ſupport of ſo arduous and complicated a character as you are now going to perform upon the theatre of life.

It is very natural to conclude you have, during the tedious years of initiation as an apprentice, and your more mature

ſervices as a journeyman, (politely ycleped aſſiſtant) whether in the metropolis, or the country, gone through every degree of drudgery, and feelingly experienced every indignity, that *inſolent pride* could beſtow, or *patient merit* receive. Not an inferior truſt (of the inferior part of the faculty) but you have carried into execution, from the injection of an *enema* in a garret, to the ſeparation of an *emplaſtrum veſicatorium* in a workhouſe. Theſe are offices of humanity and ſervice to your fellow creatures, that do you immortal honour; they are retroſpectives that form an epoch in the mind of every practitioner, and afford him the powerful conſolation of *ſacred truth*, "He that "humbleth himſelf," &c. by which rule, and the force of a fertile imagination, any *apothecary* may *conceive* himſelf a *phyſician*, even in the adminiſtration of a *glyſter*. In this hoſpitable execution (taken metaphorically) there cannot be ſuppoſed the leaſt indignity; for it is univerſally known the *greateſt* and moſt *prudent* generals are in the *rear* during the heat of battle; and we are again taught ſeriouſly to believe "the laſt ſhall be "firſt," &c. ſo that you have every way, (by both *faith* and

ſervices) inſured a religious and prophetic *hope* of preferment.

Having for many years encountered the *worſt*, you are now prepared for the *beſt*; and bidding adieu to the rigid rules of auſtere maſters, embark upon your own foundation, qualified for every medical conſultation, from the bedchamber of a *dutcheſs dowager* to the ſubterraneous reſidence of her *chairman*. You have, at this period, not only ſhaken off the ſhackles of ſervitude, but the very recollection of your long ſtanding culinary connections. In your various changes of reſidence, tedious peregrinations, and medical obſervations, it is natural to conclude, you have acquired by care, ſtudy, and attention, a competent knowledge of almoſt every tint in the picture of life; which, with embelliſhments, derived from a few courſes under ſome of the *metropolitan lecturers*, and *hoſpital attendance*, to qualify you for the complication of *country* practice, there is no doubt but you come from the forge properly formed, to make wrong appear right, and right wrong, in the face of every *old woman* in the county where you are going to reſide.

Excluſive

Excluſive of theſe qualifications, and the many inſtructions already introduced under the two preceding heads (to which you may occaſionally refer) there are a great variety that muſt be advanced for *your particular uſe*, and to thoſe you will, no doubt, pay every proper attention, if you indulge the leaſt deſire to become a popular member of the faculty. In reſpect to perſonal appearance, former diſtinctions and peculiarities are in ſome degree levelled, the world is very much relaxed in its ſeveſeverities, and the apothecary mixes with the general herd of mankind, without thoſe diſtinguiſhing exteriors that *were* his profeſſional characteriſtics. The gilt-headed cane and enormous taſſel are no longer in uſe; the *full-bottom wig*, that ſo univerſally ornamented the *os frontis* of the faculty in general, is now almoſt laid aſide with inferior claſſes, and engroſſed by the *college*. The apothecary (particularly in the country) is in every reſpect free from the illiberal cenſure of former times, and treading cloſe upon the heels of the *parſon* and the *lawyer*, enjoys, without reſtraint, the *chace*, the *gun*, the *bottle*, and *bona-roba*. Theſe, if you are of a volatile diſpoſition and amorous

conſtitution,

conſtitution, afford (at ſeaſonable opportunities) a happy and high reliſhed relaxation from the many ſeverities of medical practice.

Having fixed upon your intended ſpot for embarkation, let every thought be employed to diſplay an attracting uniformity in the diſpoſition of your apparatus, for the *claptrap* of public approbation; and though that great inveſtigator of human nature has beautifully portrayed "*a beggarly account of empty boxes*," yet they become immediately neceſſary to your preſent purpoſe; it not being his buſineſs to explain the folly and extravagance of your placing any thing of conſequence there, before you was experimentally convinced you ſhould have occaſion for its uſe. Let there be a *profuſion of appearance*; the *ſhell* of a ſhop is not very expenſive, and druggiſts are ſo numerous, that you may be expeditiouſly ſupplied whenever circumſtances require it.—The bottles (being tranſparent) become more immediately in need of *ſomething* in each, particularly a few of thoſe articles (as hartſhorn, lavender, &c.) that are in common requeſt. The lower drawers (within reach) may be labelled

with

with *obſolete titles*, and in each placed various paper parcels of *bran* or *ſaw-duſt*, to avoid a chance of the ſarcaſm upon the faculty by a countryman, who happened to be left alone ſome time in the ſhop of an apothecary, and whoſe curioſity being excited by the great *number of drawers*, was powerfully prompted to open one labelled "*Thus*," which finding *empty*, he was induced to try a ſecond, *ſtill the ſame*; a third, *the ſame alſo*.—Oh! oh! ſays he, "I ſee plain enough how it is, they are all *Thus*." Your ſhop being at length finiſhed in a ſtile modern and ſtriking, let a green ſilk curtain (with braſs rods and rings) be affixed to your window; it is an excellent method of conveying an idea of internal myſtery, and inſpiring proportionate external curioſity. Let no paltry diffidence appear in the board over your door, announcing your name and qualifications; there are great numbers that can't diſtinguiſh *ſmall letters* at a diſtance, to avoid which inconvenience, let the capitals be as conſpicuous as the canvas figures at a country puppet-ſhew.

"Thus far before the wind;" and being (as it is natural to conclude)

conclude) not greatly engaged, it becomes your immediate attention to wait perſonally upon the different overſeers of the ſurrounding pariſhes, and give them moſt forcibly to underſtand, they have been for many years the ſubjects of impoſition; but you having more *honeſty* than the whole body of the faculty, will undertake to *farm* the medical ſuperintendance of the *poor*, at half the annual ſum it has ever coſt the inhabitants before. This political ſtroke will excellently anſwer both your purpoſes, for overſeers in general care not how little they pay; and you being profeſſionally callous to the tears of poverty and diſtreſs, care not how little you give for their money.

Tartar emetic—*Pulv. contray.* c.—*Pulv. nitri*, and *Pulv. jalapii* —are medicines admirably calculated for the conſtitutions of the poor; and thirty or forty ſhillings a year in thoſe articles, will be ſufficient for the conſumption of *five* or *ſix* pariſhes; with the additional advantage of rendering *vials* unneceſſary, a conſideration of ſome conſequence, when it it is remembered they are now double their former price. Theſe parochial connections

will

will be productive of advantage in more ways than one, for as the unhappy paupers will be conſtantly ſeen at your door, it will afford all the appearance of ſudden popularity.

Oſtentatious parade, and perſonal conſequence, muſt be your leading traits, and never loſt ſight of; *a couple of horſes* will contribute largely to theſe objects; not that you are expected to degrade the dignity of your profeſſion, by riding, like Hughes or Aſtley, *two at a time*, but their appearance will conſtitute an admirable ſhew of buſineſs in being rode *alternately*; and as moſt young men who have not been long their own maſters, are fond of diſplaying their perſons on the *outſide of a horſe*, you may exultingly not only "feed fat" the propenſity, but the general run of your mechanical neighbours (who ſee no farther than the tips of their noſes, and are ever caught by appearances) will erroneouſly ſuppoſe you are viſiting ſome of the firſt characters in the county. As it will be now highly derogatory for you to ſtain your hands with any menial ſervices, procure ſpeedily a *journeyman*

neyman (alias aſſiſtant) to enhance your own weight; if there is at preſent nothing for him to do, the curtain, before recommended, will obſcure his indolence from the prying eye of public curioſity.

No part of the faculty having ever been remarkable for the regularity or fervency of their *devotions*, your preſence at church will conſequently not be expected (particularly after the impreſſions you have made of being perpetually engaged) unleſs you politically appear there at two or three different times, merely for the convenience of being called out *by your own direction*, at the ſtill and moſt awful part of the ſervice; a circumſtance that will tell much to your advantage with every ſuperannuated *old woman* in the pariſh. Take particular care that your horſe is conſtantly brought to your door on the ſabbath day, juſt as the neighbours are paſſing to church, and there paraded ſome time previous to your appearance, which to every weak mind will have its effects; and be equally careful to meaſure the ſteps of your *horſe*, by the

the hands of your *watch*, ſo that whether your journey is accidentally long, or intentionally ſhort, you return juſt at the moment of their diſmiſſion from the religious conventicle. In paſſing the whole body of inhabitants, be ſtrictly careful of your ſelf conſequence—a bow of *ſignificant reſpect* to two or three of the *ſuperiors*, may be applicable and conſiſtent—but no familiarity with, or knowledge of, the multitude; the greater your *oſtentation* and *indifference*, the more *ſervile* will be their *admiration* and *reſpect*.

By no means form any haſty or inconſiderate matrimonial connection; you will derive many advantages at firſt from a life of *celibacy*; there are always a variety of juvenile females in the country (as well as the metropolis) who conſidering themſelves *every way qualified* to conſtitute *doctor's ladies*, will moſt induſtriouſly *throw* themſelves in your way upon every occaſion, that their perſonal attractions may not eſcape your obſervation. To families where there are daughters, nieces, or couſins, who *conceive* themſelves ripe for the *gordian knot*, you

may aſſure yourſelf of being called in a ſhort time; for as you are ſuch "a charming man" in your appearance, (and ſo admirably *fitting* for a huſband) there can't be the leaſt reaſon to doubt your profeſſional qualifications.

You may perhaps ſtart ſome doubts, (or conſcientious qualms may ariſe) how theſe appearances are to be ſupported in the infancy of buſineſs, without any great perſonal property to ſanction or juſtify the attempt; in ſuch diffidence you perfectly diſplay, not only your puſillanimity, but want of knowledge and experience; for certainly out of the above deſcription of females, who will conſtantly pay court to your conſequence, and by *a thouſand modes* ſolicit your attention, ſurely ſome one of the *beſt poſſeſſions* may be obtained, whoſe *fortune*, and advantage of family connection, may anſwer your moſt ſanguine expectations: but ſhould *fate* conſpire againſt you in both *buſineſs and marriage*, you will have the conſolation of having made *a bold puſh*, and failing in the attempt, you only become a faſhionable adventurer, and gratefully pay your creditors *nothing in the pound*.

Having

Having gone through a chain of circumſtances and inſtructions, neceſſary for the ſupport of your *public* appearance, it will be naturally expected I ſhall revert to the modes of behaviour that are to conſtitute your *private* character, in the profeſſional tranſactions that you conclude will daily occur. Firſt, let it be your conſtant obſervance to be equally reſerved and difficult of acceſs—whenever your opinion is required, even in your own ſhop, appear there with tedious reluctance, as if privacies of the utmoſt conſequence prevented your earlier attendance; this will not only add to your medical weight, but raiſe your reputation for *good breeding* and intercourſe with the polite world; for it is univerſally known, none but the inferior orders are introduced to each other without ceremony; it would be therefore highly ridiculous in you to practiſe a mode of behaviour in uſe only with the loweſt claſſes of mankind.

Never leave home without letting your horſe be held long enough at the door to be obſerved by the ſurrounding neighbours;

hours; the moſt trifling indication of buſineſs is a point in your favour, and ought by no means to be omitted. By the invariable good effect of which rule, no meſſenger whatever ſhould arrive from the country for medicines, but he muſt be detained *as long as poſſible*; his preparations ſhould never be ready when called for; on the contrary, his horſe ſhould be hung or held at the door for half an hour at leaſt; a double advantage is derived from this neceſſary caution—the horſe at the door will prove a ſtriking object to the public, and the meſſenger will aſſure the family you attend, that nothing but your great hurry occaſioned the delay in his return.

It will be ſtrictly proper for you, upon all occaſions, to preſerve the moſt inflexible ſerenity of countenance, even to extreme gravity; and this injunction becomes the more immediately neceſſary, as there are a vaſt variety of unexpected cauſes for laughter, to which you will be open, in the frequent applications of unpoliſhed ruſtics, for your *great opinion*

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and assistance. One class will "beg the favour of you to *sub-*
"*scribe* for their complaints; another "hopes you won't be
"offended, but he is come to *insult* you upon his case;" these instances are so exceedingly common, that you will often meet with them, where they are least expected. There now lives *an alderman*, in a very capital town and place of *royal residence*, who, a few years since, labouring under an *epidemic* complaint, was told that symptoms were alarming, and a *glyster* was unavoidably necessary; to which representation he expostulated, begging the apothecary "to lay aside his in-
"tention, and give him any thing to *take inwardly*; but for *God's sake*, to have no *cutting* and *slaying*."—Another of the same *learned body corporate* (for they have both killed the K—g's hand) said "he bore the severity of his complaint
"with more patience, now he was *matured* to it."

To prove the frequency of these accidental slips, it is impossible to resist the present temptation of introducing a few more, that occur to memory in the present recital. A lad

upon

upon the borders of Northamptonſhire, being ſent in the night to a medical practitioner at Banbury, and calling him out of bed, told him, "he muſt come immediately to his "miſtreſs, for ſhe had got a *Viſtula!*"——"Where? *In "ano?*" "No, Zir, in the next pariſh to't."

In an excurſion to Surry, I was ſolicited in a pariſh near Chertſey, to give my advice to a maſter carpenter there, who had been a long time indiſpoſed; but my preſcription having had the deſired effect, and the poor man getting abroad, he very gratefully declared to all his friends, "I was the *beſt "muſician* that ever came into the country."—In the county of Berks, an elderly woman came to conſult me upon the bad ſtate of her daughter's health; and after animadverting upon ſymptoms, told me *in a whiſper*, "that her daughter "was to have been married to a young man ſome time "ſince; but ſomething happening to break it off, ſhe really "believed *'twas nature turned inward in her.*"

Paying a viſit, in my earlier days, to the lady of a good old

old country alderman of a borough in Hertfordſhire, ſhe, after many aukward apologies for the indelicacy of the ſubject, tremblingly told me, "ſhe had been very uneaſy for "ſome days, with a violent heat in her *firmament*."—By way of ſuppreſſing thoſe riſible emotions in my diſpoſition I have before deſcribed, I, for a moment, changed the ſubject, by enquiring the health of her huſband; to which ſhe replied, with thanks, "he was exceedingly well, but gone to make an *excreſcence* into the country;" plunged deeper in difficulty, and nearer the *laugh* than before, which was now become hard to ſuppreſs, I applied myſelf to her ſnuff-box, then on the table, and paſſing a few encomiums on its neatneſs, ſhe ſaid, it was very much admired, being a *gypſey's pimple* ſet in *pinch-gut*.

You will, no doubt, be now prepared for ſuch unexpected miſapplication of words, ſuch *ſublimity of expreſſion*, and regulate the rigidity of your *frontal* muſcles accordingly; when called to a patient, let your perſonal addreſs and

behaviour be modelled entirely by the ſtate of his *property*; if he is *your ſuperior* in rank and condition, every action of yours muſt denote it moſt ſtrikingly;—you *approach* with *reſpect*—you *dictate* with *ſubmiſſion*—your mildneſs and *affected penetration* muſt be perceptible in all your enquiries, making the moſt ſcrupulous obſervations how far you ſeem to gain upon the *credulity* and good opinion of your ſubject, taking leave with all thoſe attracting expreſſions of tenderneſs and ſympathy, (highly tinctured with reſpect) that may give your patient a favourable idea of the *integrity*, it can never be your *intereſt* to poſſeſs.

On the contrary, when your advice and aſſiſtance is required to a patient, whoſe feelings are equally wounded by bodily affliction and the barbed arrow of adverſity, you may ſafely reverſe the whole mode of behaviour, and put into practice your perſonal pride, even to perfect impudence. This will be in many reſpects a conſiſtency of conduct; it will be convincing them, as you have nothing to hope from

their

affluence, you have certainly nothing to fear from their *poverty*.

Let what will be the condition of your patient, you are not to act as some few conscientious practitioners do, explaining what you conceive to be the nature of the case, original cause of complaint, or from what operation you expect expeditious relief; this may be the best practice with those unfashionable formal old fellows, who received their medical instructions near half a century since, and pique themselves upon what they call their *integrity*, but it will be perfectly *illiberal* in you, who have received a more modern and polished education. Ambiguity, and true medical mystery, will be your best guide upon every occasion; by not naming the case, or *cause of complaint*, you can never be accused of having *mistaken* it; and by letting the property of the medicine you administer remain a matter of secrecy with all but yourself, you reserve the incontrovertible power of saying, "it has had the *very effect* you *intended*," whether it has

operates by *vomit*, *ſtool*, *urine*, *perſpiration*, or *ſleep*: theſe are precautions a *wiſe* man always takes, a *fool* never, and may be deemed ſomething ſimilar to the conduct of Bayes's troops in the Rehearſal, who, the *warlike* meſſenger ſaid, "were ſtealing a march in *ſtilts*."

During the indiſpoſition of your patient, 'tis your duty to think much more of the emolument that will ariſe from the *protraction* of his caſe, than the *expedience* of his cure. You muſt have it ever in mind, that he has paid you the the greateſt compliment one man can poſſibly pay another on earth; he has placed an implicit confidence, and entruſted you with the care of his conſtitution and the key of his caſh; in fact, he has put both his *life* and *property* into your hands; and the reſpect you owe to *ſelf-preſervation* renders it neceſſary you make the moſt of *both*. Let your attachment to his health and intereſt be demonſtrated by the frequency of your attendance; it will be impoſſible for you to give a greater proof of your *diſintereſted* friendſhip, than by your large

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and conſtant ſupplies of different medicines; too great a quantity, too great a variety cannot be introduced; they all tend to a promotion of your emolument, and the ſum total of your bill will be conſidered *a ſtriking proof* of your *merit* and aſſiduity.

If you find the family and friends not perfectly ſatisfied with your conduct, that there is the leaſt coolneſs and diſcontent perceptible, or ſymptoms of preſent or approaching danger, ſtrongly recommend the preſence of a *better opinion* in the form of a phyſician; this will prove an exertion of the ſoundeſt policy—double the quantity of medicines will be thrown into *his* preſcription for the promotion of *your* intereſt, an act that the preſent danger will amply juſtify, and ſhould the unhappy victim be doomed

"To paſs that bourne,
"From whence no traveller returns,"

You have nobly and ſkilfully ſlipped your neck out of the collar, and left all the credit of *killing* (as you really ought to

do)

do) to your ſuperior, whoſe *diploma* entitles him to the preference; and, *vice verſâ*, ſhould you perceive the patient and family become dupes to your affected ſincerity, and that you are daily raiſing yourſelf in their eſtimation, erect a ſtructure of profeſſional applauſe upon the baſis of their *credulity*, inſinuate every poſſible degree of ſelf praiſe, and ſet the advice of a phyſician in the moſt contemptible point of view.—Affect unlimited attachment to the intereſt of your patient, and ſay, "if you would recommend much better advice than your own, if you could do it with a conſcientious conſiſtency, but it had ever been an opinion of yours (which was ſtill unaltered) if the apothecary could not plunder a family *ſufficiently*, the better method would be to adopt *a conſultation*, when it might be done to a *certainty*."

This open manner of dealing inſtantly enhances you in the eſtimation of patient and friends, and you will conſequently ſtand ſo high in opinion that you may proceed deliberately in your *ſpoils* without interruption, for where there

are

are no *daily fees* (ſwallowed up in the *vortex* of the college) your more trifling depredations will not be conſidered as matters of medical magnitude or impoſition.

In all kinds of inferior practice render every look, every thought and action, ſubſervient to your general intent of perſonal rank and pecuniary conſequence; it muſt be your particular ſtudy to inculcate every idea in the lowet claſs, of your great penetration and abilities; by your minute inveſtigations, croſs-examinations, and applicable nods of ſignificance (implying the moſt extenſive knowledge) you will diſcover remote ſymptoms, that once explained to the complaining patient, will give them reaſon to believe (which they very readily do) you are a ſupernatural agent; and one *fool* of *this denomination*, who firmly believes you know the ſtate of his health by the *wrinkles* in his *forehead*, or the *cloud* in his *urine*, will ſoon infect a whole county with the certainty of your infallible qualifications. This opinion once founded, the effect is abſolutely incredible, an inſtance of which may be found

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in various parts of England, but more particularly in a very large and populous town, not forty miles weſt of the metropolis, where *fools* from every part of the county are conſtantly driving (their pockets laden with *chamber-lye*) to a famous inſpector of *urinals*, vulgarly denominated a *piſs-pot doctor*, who, to magnify the report of his incredible ſkill and penetration, has adopted a certain method to impoſe upon the minds of the multitude, and prey upon the little pecuniary collections they can make, to become the dupes of *his villainy* and their *own infatuation*.

The mode of impoſition, I ſhall explain in a fact as communicated by one of his moſt intimate friends, and leave the ſtory itſelf to applaud his ingenuity:—He has (in a very reſpectable habitation) a ſmall private room, to which every patient or meſſenger is conducted (upon a plea that the *doctor* is not at home, or is particularly engaged) here an emiſſary (as if caſually) aſking certain queſtions, hears the whole ſtory, examines the urine, and deſcends to particulars—the

doctor

doctor is in the adjoining apartment (calculated by a thin partition and certain openings, invifible to the unſuſpecting viſitor) where he minutely hears the entire converſation; the neceſſary ſecrets being obtained, he makes his appearance with the moſt commanding aſpect; at this awful ceremony, the faſcinated patient almoſt feels the effect of ANIMAL MAGNETISM; the approach of ſo much wiſdom deprives him for a moment of ſpeech, and the *poor devil* undergoes a kind of temporary annihilation. An inſtance of this occurred not long ſince, when a country fellow having journeyed twelve miles to the doctor with a bottle of his wife's *chryſtal ſtream*, communicated the neceſſary particulars to the agent, when the doctor, in poſſeſſion of the ſecret, made his appearance.—"Well, friend!"—"I have brought your honour my wife's "water, ſhe could not *reſt any longer* without your *device*"—"Your wife's water—very well—let me ſee!—aye, I "perceive ſhe has *bruiſed her ſhoulder*."—"Yes, Sir, ſhe has "indeed."—"By this water (it is perfectly clear) ſhe has

" *fallen down ſtairs.*"—" Yes, your honour!"—" She is not " injured in any other part by the fall?"—" Only complains " a little at the *bottom of her belly*, your honour."—" Well, " ſhe fell from the top of the ſtairs to the bottom, *I ſee?*"—" No, your honour, ſhe had gone down two ſteps before ſhe " fell."—" Indeed! why then you have not brought me *all* " *her water.*"—" No, your honour, there was *a little* the " bottle would not hold."—" Why then, ſirrah, the *two* " *ſtairs* are left behind."—This circumſtance, (of a thouſand that might be quoted) is ſufficient to demonſtrate the ridiculous credulity of the multitude in all matters of quackery, and leaves us to lament, that the ignorance of one claſs, ſhould become ſo wretched a prey to the deliberate villainy of another.

The long experience you have had, in charging and poſting your accompts, under different maſters of equal judgment and experience, leaves little room for inſtruction under that head; it may however not prove inapplicable to remind

you,

you, it is no matter how incoherent or unintelligible the *writing* is, provided your *figures* are *bold* and *conſpicuous*; ſo long as you an convince them how much they *have to pay*, it is a total matter of indifference to you, how much they have *received*.

There is one caution however exceedingly neceſſary to be advanced, to prevent your becoming ſubject to a reproof given by the celebrated Dean Swift to his apothecary, for preſuming to be handſomely paid for the confidence of putting himſelf upon an equality with his ſuperiors. This is the impropriety of letting the word "*viſits*" conſtitute a part of your charge, inſtead of the more modeſt term of "*journeys*," or "*attendance*."

The Dean having been afflicted with a long and ſevere fit of illneſs, requeſted, ſoon after recovery, the apothecary's bill; which having peruſed, and finding a ſum total very much beyond his expectation, he proceeded to *diſſection*, and perceiving almoſt every *third article* to announce the honour

of a "*viſit,*" at five ſhillings each, he ſatirically adopted the following plan to puniſh *Mr. Emetic,* for what the Dean conſidered a piece of conſummate aſſurance.---Having required his attendance to receive his demand, he paid down a certain ſum of money, which the mortified apothecary continued to tell over, and repeatedly compare with the figures denoting the *ſum total*; but ſtill continuing *to tell and compare,* without ſeeming to get at all nearer the point of ſatisfaction, the Dean, in compaſſion to the confuſion he viſibly laboured under, obſerved, as he did not ſeem to be perfectly clear in his arrangement of the accompt, he would ſet him right.---If he would but deduct the amount of the "viſits" from the ſum total of his bill, he would find it exactly right; for being now pretty well recovered, he intended *paying* him his "*viſits*" again *one at a time.*

You will now naturally conclude every inſtruction that can be poſſibly neceſſary, has been ſubmitted to your conſideration, for the promotion of your proſperous and profitable

career

career through the medical journey of life; it is not ſo; for although we have gone through the uſual forms of ſickneſs, to either recovery or death, there is ſtill one remark neceſſary, to the completion of conſiſtency, in your profeſſional character. It is a few obſervations, in deriſion of that truly contemptible burleſque upon propriety, in following the corps of your patient to the grave; a folly originating in *ignorance*, and eſtabliſhed by *cuſtom*; a circumſtance ſo truly ridiculous and farcical, that it did not eſcape the penetration and ſarcaſtic wit of our Ariſtophanes of the preſent century, who attacked it with the full force of his ſatire, in the deſcription given by a taylor, in one of his celebrated comedies, who ſays, "as he was going home to a cuſtomer with a pair "of breeches under his arm, he perceived his neighbour "*Gargle*, the apothecary, following a *corps* to the grave,— "ſo ſays he, Maſter Gargle, I ſee you are going home with "your *work too*." The juſtice of this remark renders the circumſtance ſo truly ridiculous, that it is a matter of admi-

ration,

ration, how any man of the moſt common underſtanding can ever ſubmit to an indignity ſo truly laughable. It certainly bears the appearance of your not being content with preying upon the property of the deceaſed, during their laſt hours of ſublunary affliction, but you meanly purſue their very remains to the grave, and obtain a paltry hatband and gloves, at the expence of decency and diſcretion. Excluſive of this very ſtriking obſtacle, there is one of equal weight in the ſcale of your profeſſional reputation—it certainly can add none to the eminence of your character, that the contents of the coffin was publickly known to be a ſubject of your ſkill and experimental practice.

You will certainly experience ſome difficulty in evading a compliance with many requeſts, made to you for this purpoſe; but I would recommend it to you to encounter diſpleaſure, rather than become the dupe of ſo great an abſurdity. To inculcate by example, what I have ſtrongly recommended in precept, you may be aſſured, that I have,

during

during my long practice, retained so great an aversion to this inconsistency of character, that I rendered myself totally incapable of compliance, by never having in possession *a suit of mourning*; this resource has always proved my never failing friend, when no other apology would be accepted; and by never seeming to recollect *the want* till a few hours before the *funeral*, a written apology has always proved a respectable substitute, to which there was no alternative.

Having descended to the very minutiæ of a long, extensive, and successful practice, to form your mind, and regulate your manners in every professional transaction of your life, I cannot doubt, but rules so directly consonant to your personal interest and reputation, will receive every assistance from your unerring consistency and perseverance, conveying a perfect corroboration of the *gratitude* you feel, for the intrinsic worth of so liberal and friendly a communication.

TO

TO

THE CHYMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

IT will create no ſurpriſe that you bring up the rear of this medical exhibition, when it is remembered that the moſt opulent, eminent, or reſpectable, generally cloſe every public proceſſion.—You are to the faculty, what the *hammer-man* is to the *forge*; you are in fact the *arterial reſervoir*, from whoſe ſource flow the rich ſtreams, that feed the *venal diviſions* in every branch of the profeſſion, whether in town or country. To the fertility of your genius, to the extent of your commerce, to the enterpriſing ſpirit of your pecuniary embarkations, the faculty are indebted for the great variety and ſtriking novelties, that render them ſo much the ſubjects of admiration.

You happily derive your affluence from dealing innocently around you the various *inſtruments* of *death*, with an indifference—

difference that ſufficiently exculpates you from the ſuſpicion of *murder*, even as acceſſaries before the fact.—Your conſtant and extenſive inventions (for the promotion of private emolument and public good) rank you high in general eſtimation, and you prudently recommend yourſelves to the attention of the moſt learned, by your very *frequent* and *extraordinary* diſcoveries.—Your advertiſements (with which almoſt every literary vehicle teems) are alike calculated to excite wonder and approbation; they ſeem to indicate proofs, that *you alone* exceed the limits of human penetration, and diſplay a hope of perpetual exiſtence, by ſetting mortality at defiance; like a groupe of *deſperate hazard players*, you are "at all in the "ring," and with a degree of emulative oppoſition to each other, produce from your *alembics—bolt heads*, and *balneum arenæ*, antidotes to every ill: the only ray of conſolation to the leſs learned is, that *death* (often an unexpected viſitor) opens the eyes of the world to the arts of your deception, and you ſlide into the grave with the calm and unobſerved

obſcurity of your neighbours. The wonderful extent of your fertile abilities are conſtantly conveyed to public attention, through the pompous medium of "Letters Patent" and "Royal Authority," that are at length become (from the higher arts) the faſhionable introduction to a *breeches ball*; a *tincture for the tooth ach*; a *blacking cake*, or a *gamboge horſe ball*.

While I lament this degradation, this proſtitution of patronage, to ſuch *trifling*, ſuch *contemptible* efforts of *ſterility*, I cannot but conſider how gratefully, how extenſively, you are bound to a credulous and indulgent public, who implicitly ſanction with their patronage, every production of *genius or dullneſs*, whether in a *philoſophic taper*, a concentrated *acid of vinegar*, or a *ſalt of lemons*; they are undoubtedly diſcoveries of *immenſe magnitude* to the public at large; and experience has ſufficiently proved, that ſo much *patriotic virtue* ſhould meet its *own reward*.

Nothwithſtanding the ſuperiority and extent of your knowledge, ſo viſibly diſplayed in the *ſublimity* of your frequent

 experiments,

experiments, that have raiſed you to ſuch a great degree of profeſſional eminence, there may yet be ſome profitable principles of practice, inculcated by a long and ſtudious obſerver, that will evidently add to your emoluments, if not to the encreaſe of your reputations.

Your *peculiar modeſty* may have prevented your attaining the utmoſt perfection of your art, and left you ſtrangers to the very great and undiſcovered advantages, that the privileges of your profeſſion ſo ſingularly entitle you to; for though you may hitherto have reconciled yourſelves to a paltry *mechanical* profit of thirty-five or forty per cent. what law forbids you making the "moſt of your market," and enhancing thoſe profits to ſuch ſtate, as may beſt accord with your idea and gratification of *city eminence—rural eaſe—external appearance*, and *domeſtic hoſpitality*? To inſure theſe comforts to a certainty, accept ſuch inſtructions, (as cloſely adhered to) will inevitably produce the purpoſes for which they are introduced.

Hitherto, a ſtranger to the happy effects of neceſſary, *adulteration*, it may not be inapplicable to ſay a few words upon its numerous advantages; firſt, at your embarkation, you ſhould adopt it as the *ultimatum* of all your profeſſional views, and render it as ſubſervient to your wiſhes, as the lover's invariable obſervance of "*perſevere* and *conquer*," is to his. *Adulteration* has many pleaſing advantages annexed to its practice; by the applicable introduction of an *harmleſs* ingredient, you may reduce the dangerous property of a *draſtic* purgative, and render a powerful *poiſon* leſs deſtructive; by ſuch acts you will enjoy the inexpreſſible conſolation of hourly contributing to the ſafety of your fellow-creatures, in exertions of *humanity*, that will do you the greateſt honour.

The prelude to the *Pharmacopœia*, ſufficiently informs you, the *College of Wigs* are empowered by royal ſanction to invent, or conſtitute forms, and the *cabinet* to enforce them; but your ſuperior knowledge ſets ſuch arbitrary dictation at

defiance,

defiance, and your *practical arts* will ever ſuperſede their *theoretical* penetration. Let them happily enjoy the power to alter names, and improve forms of all the compoſitions in that *laughable farrago*, their *new diſpenſatory*; they have the province to direct, and you have the pleaſure to evade; obeying their injunctions no farther than is ſtrictly conſiſtent with your own intereſt and convenience. To aſſiſt the aptitude of your fertility, let me introduce to your attention (as ſpecimens of what may be done) ſome few of the advantageous alterations that may be made in medicinal compoſition, to promote your certain emolument, without arraigning your *integrity*.

In that expenſive preparation *confectio cardiaca* (newly named by college ſagacity *confectio aromatica*) opportunity offers to diſplay a part of your privilege in ſubſtituting the uſe of *ſaffron paper*; which will impart to the compoſition the rich colour of the original *crocus*; for thoſe other high priced articles *cardamoms*, *cinnamon*, *nutmegs*, and *cloves*, applicable

and

and proportional quantities of thoſe cheaper (and equally efficacious) *cordials* and *carminatives*, *ginger*, *grains of paradiſe*, or any of the inferior ſpices may be added. In large preparations of the *electarium lenitivum*, an introduction of the *pulp of prunes* for the *pulp of caſſia*, will ſave much additional expence and trouble.---In the *ſyrupus e ſpina cervina*, treacle is certainly preferable to the fineſt lump ſugar, with this advantage, that the predominant nauſea will prevent the diſcovery.

Experience will convince you that *ſpiritus c. c. (per ſe)* obtained by diſtillation from the accumulated ſtale urine of a pariſh workhouſe, or the bones of animals, will be by far preferable to that drawn from the pureſt *cornu cervi*; as are the raſura c. c. from the ſhank bones of horſes, or cows, preferable to all other.—*Sp. terebinthinæ* (carefully and proportionally incorporated) becomes an admirable aſſociate with the *ol juniperi*.—*Ol. amygdalinum* (and many other articles blended *ſecundum artem*) form an excellent combination

with, and increaſe the ſtock of *ol. aniſi verum.*—*Genuine gum guaiacum*---*galbanum*—*ſtorax*, and *balſ. tolutanum*, may undergo the proceſs of *purification* much better, if impregnated with the occaſional aſſiſtance of either the *reſina nigra*, or *flava*.—The various unguents will derive advantage from the ſalutary introduction of *auxungiæ porcinæ*, as a ſubſtitute for thoſe more *expenſive and unneceſſary* articles *cera flava* and *ol. oliverum*.

Pulv. aniſi verum will be much more eaſily reduced from the cakes, after the ſeed has been expreſſed, the oil obtained, and their medical virtue entirely extracted; it is an article only in uſe for horſes and cows; whether they are *killed or cured*, is an object not worthy your conſideration. *Liquoriee*, *fenugreek*, *diapente*, *turmeric*, and *elecampane*, are to receive their baſis from *horſe beans* ground (at the medical mills) exceedingly fine, and to be impregnated properly with the different articles from which they derive their names, ſo as to retain each their predominant effluvia; and as theſe are articles in uſe

for

for cattle only, you will give proof of your humanity, by drenching them with *food* inſtead of *phyſic*. The ſpecies *hieræ* will be much more certain in its effects, if prepared with the *Barbadoes*, inſtead of the *Succotrine* aloes; and the true Dutch biſcuit powder, will form no unprofitable union with the powder of *Salop*. In fact, innumerable inſtances of profeſſional ſkill and œconomy might be introduced, extending inſtructions to a much greater length than originally intended; protracting the explanatory parts beyond the limits of utility, an accuſation it has been my principal care to avoid.

It may perhaps be almoſt unneceſſary to remind you, how abſolutely needful it will be, to reduce to impalpable pulverization and complicated forms, all inferior and damaged *drugs* of every denomination; in *powders, tinctures, electuaries*, and other preparations, their defects will not be perceptible, and it will prove matter of no ſmall gratification to you, that many practitioners are very *inferior judges* of the compoſitions they conſtantly preſcribe; to theſe may be added the ſtill

greater

greater number, that never condeſcend to undergo the taſk of inſpection, forming together a major part of the very numerous and reſpectable body I have undertaken to inſtruct. ---If you are a diſpenſer of *chemicals* and *galenicals* by retail, one additional obſervation will prove worthy your attention ---never let your ſhop, or diſpenſary, get into diſrepute by too much modeſty, in ſaying you are without the moſt obſolete or ridiculous article that can be enquired for; if *oil of ſwallows, oil of bricks, lobſters' blood,* or *milk of lilies,* ſhould be the objects in requeſt, let the fertility of your invention *inſtantly* furniſh a ſubſtitute for either; of theſe, ſuch a great variety are always to be found, the leaſt enumeration becomes unneceſſary.

The ſeries of inſtructions advanced for the promotion of profeſſional intereſt, have been promulgated without a fear of offence, or hope of reward; amidſt the very great number of different practitioners, into whoſe hands theſe admonitions muſt inevitably fall, happy he who can exultingly exclaim,

"Let the gall'd jade wince, our withers are unwrung."

From the phyſician, who lingers out a life of *ſtudious ſuſpenſe*, and derives a ſcanty ſubſiſtence from the alternate labour of morning viſits and evening lectures---from that *dignified* "member of the corporation," whoſe *mercurial* abilities are thruſt into the hand of every dirty paſſenger, in the more dirty avenues of the metropolis---from that induſtrious *accoucher*, whoſe inceſſant nocturnal labour renders him, in common life, little ſuperior to the *nightman*, and that equal drudge the metropolitan *pharmacopoliſt*, I can have little to expect but univerſal denunciation of vengeance, and threats of malevolence: to the effect of theſe, I oppoſe the ſtability of *truth*, that will render me *invulnerable* to all their attacks.

A ſteady obſervance of the iniquity of medical practice has long ſince powerfully convinced me of the abſolute neceſſity of profeſſional reformation, and ſhould I (by arming the public with a weapon of ſelf-defence) ſucceed in producing a change in the ſyſtematic impoſition of one, and

preventing

preventing perpetual depredation upon the other, every idea of perſonal ambition will be fully gratified, for

" So little ſlave to what the world calls fame;
" As dies my body—ſo I wiſh my name."

But this obſcurity in the preſent inſtance is much more anxiouſly to be *boped* than *expected*, for there cannot be the leaſt doubt entertained but *ſome one* of his Majeſty's miniſters (who are ever anxious for the public good and increaſe of revenue) will, through the medium of the publiſher, diſcover the joint ſecret of *name* and *reſidence*, that by placing the author in the TREASURY, CUSTOMS, or ſome office equally lucrative, they may avail themſelves of his INTEGRITY, not heſitating a moment to believe, that ſo juſt an inveſtigator of profeſſional impoſitions upon individuals, muſt unavoidably render the STATE adequate ſervice, in the diſcovery of official depredations upon the PUBLIC.

FINIS.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM